



THE RAPTURE! IT IS REAL, ARE YOU READY?

THE RAPTURE! Being One of the Faithful and the Wise Part 8!

Sunday Teaching (outline) – 12-12-2021

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor – Teacher

Matt. 25:1-13 - "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. ¹¹ "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Focus Scripture: Matt. 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. This scripture should be the launching pad for the believer's perspective. Right perspectives lead to the right priorities. Right priorities will all ways lead to prosperity.

The need for us to seek the Kingdom of God is that it is the only way of living that is guaranteed to please God to which He bestows favor and increase. ... **and all these things shall be added to you.**

We are to also seek it because the Kingdom must be preached to all nations as a witness before Jesus returns in the cloud. **Matt. 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

We should be witnesses putting on display God's goodness, mercy, kindness, grace, and power.

You can't properly witness what you are ignorant of. **Matt. 11:28-30 - Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."**

The Kingdom way is the way of rest, a challenging yet doable way that brings fulfillment to the believer.

Message title: The Rapture, I'm One of the Faithful and Wise PT 8!

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matt. 25:1 - Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened. ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

The number 10 in the Bible can mean "the measure of human responsibility".

These 10 virgins were supposed to be living up to their responsibility of being prepared for the bridegroom's arrival, the Rapture.

Virgin, "an unmarried woman in this parable, represents the church." Jesus is coming back for a pure church. **Eph. 5: 27 - that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

How do we get into this glorious state? **1 John 3:3 - And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.** Real Hope has actions that follow. *ie marriage, pregnant.*

Heb. 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Jesus gives us the ability to lay every weight and sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:22 tells us the Word of God cleanses us as we apply it in love by faith to our lives. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

God is looking for people who want to be transformed, become disciplined ones who develop the ability to judge, rule and reign righteously. **Rev. 2:24-26 (NLT) - "But I also have a message for the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching ('deeper truths,' as they call them—depths of Satan, actually). I will ask nothing more of you ²⁵ except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come. ²⁶ To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, To them I will give authority over all the nations (ethnos, races, nationalities).**

1 Cor. 6:2-3 - Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? World- NT:3625 Kosmos - The inhabitants of the earth, *Those living in the world's system (the Gov't system of this world).*

We will judge the system and the people of this system. We will judge the matters of this world and its inhabitants.

The type and shadow of this is Moses judging the children of Israel (Ex 18:13).

But we will judge angels also? **³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels?**

This is why Jesus will take the wise with Him in the rapture. He is coming back for wise people. “single-minded” (i.e., one life is being for God) and thus, this believer is full of light and is illuminated.

The word “wise” is from the root word phren, which means “to rein in or curb the emotions.”

The word foolish (Strong’s # 3474, moros) means “double-minded” where we get the word moron from.

(i.e., *two lives are being lived— God’s and theirs’ double-minded*), and thus, these believers were full of darkness.

They are doubled-minded, having some knowledge of the truth but choosing to go the way of ignorance, for self-pleasure, self-preservation, and/or self-contentment.

Matt. 25:5 - But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. While waiting for the bridegroom, all ten virgins slept because it was night.

John 9:4 - I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. The night could represent a time when the opportunity to do the work of God is greatly hindered or not offered.

Jesus took advantage of the opportunities He was exposed to, to do the work of God,

6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

But at midnight or darkness which also means ignorance, absent of the truth.

A cry was made that the bridegroom was coming, and they were to go out and meet him.

Notice the cry was that the bridegroom is coming, not that He is here.

Matt. 25:3 - Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

All the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps (adjusted them, so they would be and have illumination or light).

The foolish virgins were all most out of oil, meaning there was little to no illumination around them.

The wise virgins had enough faith (*that He could come at any moment*) to keep their lamps shining even though they probably were getting little to no results.

The oil I believe is a combination of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit working in the life of a believer that produces good works which glorify God.

(Glory is the Manifestation that meets His great Expectations because of His presence)

The Bible shows us Jesus giving an illustration of light in the life of a believer in **Matt. 5: 14-16 - "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.**

¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see,... (our light shines as we speak and work).
(Putting the word in action by the power of the Holy Spirit)

...so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. *They need to see God’s goodness in your talk, your walk, and your results from following God.*

Jesus Is Lord ~ Assembly of Love